

## MYERS, CHERIE

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**From:** LARGENT, JAMES  
**Sent:** Friday, March 10, 2017 8:40 AM  
**To:** GISD-Staff  
**Subject:** Supt Weekly 3/10/17

Good Morning GISD, I hope you are enjoying another great week in the District and are ready for a nice week of Spring Break. A few things:

- Tuesday night, I attended the **Night of Percussion** at GHS. What a great show and an incredible display of talent. As a finale, the **GHS choir joined in** on the last piece of music and it was spectacular. Thanks to **Mr. Kirk, Ms. Fisher** and everyone who had a part in this performance. Great job and **I love seeing our groups work together on projects and performances**. I am seeing more and more of this and it really shows the **camaraderie we have in our district**. Great job!
- **Seven exemplary middle-grades schools** in Texas have been named "**Schools to Watch**" as part of a recognition program developed by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform.  
**Congratulations to the 2017 Texas Schools to Watch® campuses: Acton Middle School, Granbury ISD, Decker Middle School, Manor ISD, Harwood Junior High, HEB ISD, Hernando Middle School, Socorro ISD, Melillo Middle School, Pasadena ISD, Scoggins Middle School, Frisco ISD, Timberview Middle School, Keller ISD**
- We hosted a **varsity track meet last night** with lots of teams coming to town. If someone is **looking for a great PBL project**, it would be interesting to know the **economic impact GISD has on our community**. With as many teams and parents coming to town for games, competitions, meetings, etc. the impact has to be huge. With **hotel stays, restaurants, fuel, shopping, etc.** I bet the number would be staggering. If anyone decides to look at this, let me know. We could get some good PR in our community by letting them know the dollars GISD brings in to our local economy.
- I am wrapping up my week at **Brawner** where I will be **reading Dr. Seuss** and watching their presentation of **Peter Pan**.
- This week is **Diagnostician Week**. We have a very dedicated group of diagnosticians in GISD who work mainly **behind the scenes with parents, teachers and administrators** to make sure that the individual needs of many of our students are taken care of. If you **see a diagnostician today, give them a hug**. I know I will...

### Legislative Update:

On Tuesday, several of our **school board members and administrators** made a trip to Austin. We met with the **School Coalition**, sat in on the **House Education Committee** meeting, and spent some time with **Rep. Mike Lang** and his **Chief of Staff**. We discussed some **school finance** issues that are very important to us, our **opposition to vouchers**, and the need to revert more control over public schools back to the **locally elected officials** and **professional educators**. Rep. Lang listened, spent a lot of time with us, and we appreciated his comments. As this is his first session in the legislature, he is listening to anyone and getting all sides of issues, as he should. He seemed very receptive to the issues that we discussed with him. We will watch closely to see how he votes, and we certainly hope he will vote in the best interest of public school children.

**Senator Birdwell** was invited to this meeting, but was unable to meet with us. He did send a staffer to listen to our discussion.

This was the **biggest week in the legislature thus far** as the **House rolled out a school finance bill** and the **Senate rolled out their "bathroom bill."** There were lots of people at the Capitol to testify on both of these issues. As more bills get voted out of committees, we will begin to get a clearer view of what we can expect in the coming weeks. Right now, the **House and Senate are light years away from each other** as to what each body deems important.

Emails this week:

**From District Staff:** Saturday, the secondary History Fair Coordinators and I spent the day at the University of Texas at Arlington for the **Fort Worth-Arlington Regional History Fair**. There were a record number of entries at Regionals, and we had 11 students place. **5 are moving on to state!**

**From GHS:** I just wanted to share with you about the **best day ever (so far) in my teaching career**. It was so much fun to share a **'real world' experience** with the students. They were able to see first-hand **WHY the details mattered**. **WHY knowing the rules of plating made a difference**. **WHY setting the table and having everything ready on time was important**. After 8<sup>th</sup> period, we got serious about EVERYTHING! It was MARVELOUS!!! To see the kids in action, to see them putting all of the pieces together, to **hear everyone complement them on the**

food and get to relay that information was **beyond PRICELESS!!! Thank you, GISD for the BEST DAY EVER!!!**

**From District Staff:** Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Leadership Granbury tour** yesterday. We had a great group of **community members visit Admin, AMS, Oak Woods, and GHS**. They all were very impressed with the students, staff, academics, facilities, and technology. One lady even stopped me to say that it **was the best day of the program**. The whole day went very smoothly, **so thank you for everyone who pitched in to make it successful.**

**From a Parent:** I am sure it is not uncommon for high schoolers to complain about their teachers, my daughter is no exception. However, **she repeatedly sings Ms. Rothardt's praises**. I told her about the KOME teacher of the week award. She promptly went online to fill out the form. I wanted to **share her words** about this great teacher and the **difference she is making at GHS**: Ms. Rothardt is an **outstanding teacher**. She goes **above and beyond in her classroom**. She gives us wonderful notes and then a ton of problems to practice. The most impressive thing is **her dedication**. She is **always available for tutoring and comes to support our extra-curricular activities**. She is hands down the **best teacher at our high school**.

**From GHS:** I would like to **recognize Alice Casey** and she is a **traffic, hall, and all of the above monitor**. She greets **everyone, every day, with a smile and a wave**. It is **obviously her ministry and it has not gone unnoticed**.

**From BTC:** BTC would like to thank **Mrs. Reddell from GHS**. She is one of our **faithful visitors here at BTC**, and we **really appreciate her help** in making sure our students here are keeping up!

**From GHS:** A quick note.....just want to recognize **Mr. Zimmerman in our maintenance department** for his work in **producing our JROTC target stands....first rate work**. They were modeled off the **Olympic finals hall at the Olympic Training Center – and he did it with scrap wood!**

**From AMS:** I would like to say what a **great group of people we have working at the H.R. dept**. They are always so helpful with any concerns I may have, and **quick on getting back to me with answers**. Thank you **Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Taylor** for coming on Friday for our "Purple Out" to greet our students in the morning as they are coming in the doors. Great seeing their smiles as they are welcomed to school by these ladies. I would also like to say thank you for the **special treats every month with the monthly birthday cakes**. Very nice treats. **Really appreciate everything the H.R. dept. does for our district.**

**From STARS/BTC:** I would like to recognize **Regina Cox** from the **business office**. She is always pleasant and so wonderful to work with. She makes it her mission to make sure you are taken care of when you need a credit card, check, or anything else. **She truly represents customer care.**

From **Rich Teaching**, the rich classroom climate mindset is simple. Focus on **what students need to succeed**, and **build that environment every day**. Remember that **relationships are first**. Your students want to know, "Should I invest any energy in you (the teacher) to make my investment currency worthwhile." If you don't **purposefully invest thoughtfulness and clear positive actions** into your classroom climate, your job can become a nightmare every day. It will be filled with tardy students with motivation and discipline issues who act out, roll their eyes, and make comments behind your back. **Developing a rich classroom climate mindset will transform your classroom** into one amazing place to learn, and **you'll love your job every day**.

I hope you all have a **restful Spring Break!** Enjoy your time off, recharge the batteries, and be ready to come back energized and ready to go! **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

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